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Urban District of Solihull.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1947,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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1948.

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1, MILVERTON HILL,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

July, 1948.

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith my twenty-ninth Annual Report being that for the year 1947.

I have long realised, as you know, that the Solihull Urban District has reached the stage when it should have it's own Medical Officer of Health, nevertheless it is with regret that I see the end of nearly thirty years service with you and I must thank you for the kindness and courtesy extended to me at all times.

To my colleagues in the service of the Council I would give my grateful thanks for their many kindnesses to me.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, e, f.

ERNEST VAUGHAN,

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :

a, c, d.

JOSEPH S. FORMAN.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

b, c.

GEOFFREY N. DEAN.

b, c, e.

STANLEY MONKS

a, c, d.

ERNEST SOUTHERN.

(Commenced duties August, 1947).

b, c.

ROBERT P. CHURCHILL.

(Commenced duties September, 1947).

Rodent Inspectors :

J. McDONALD.

(Died January, 1947)

E. CALLAGHAN.

J. MCGHIE.

(Commenced duties June, 1947)

Clerks :

GLADYS E. TROUT.

(Resigned February, 1947).

GLADYS A. HALFORD.

PHYLLIS H. HOPKINS.

BRENDA C. MYERS.

(Commenced duties August, 1947).

Public Analysts :

BOSTOCK HILL & RIGBY.

- a.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- b.* Qualifying Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Association Joint Examination Board.
- c.* Meat Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- d.* Sanitary Science Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e.* Smoke Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- f.* Certificate of the Institute of Public Cleansing.

Solihull Urban District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1947	...	...	63,890
Birth Rate	...	...	21.1
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	18
Death Rate	...	...	8.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis „ other causes		— 1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	24
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	24
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	29
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

Population.—There is a marked increase in the Estimated Population, viz., 63,890 as against the figure of 61,720 in 1946.

Birth Rate.—21.1 per 1,000, higher than in 1946, and above the figure for England and Wales, viz., 20.5.

Death Rate.—8.5, lower than the average for the past 10 years and much lower than the figure for England and Wales, viz., 12.0.

Statistics for the past few years and of England and Wales are shewn in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—A complete list of personnel is given at the front of the report. The Inspectorial staff now comprises a Chief Sanitary Inspector, his deputy and four Additional Sanitary Inspectors. In addition there are two operatives carrying out the work of rodent destruction and appropriate clerical staff.

6. *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria ...	34	195	229
Enteric Fever.	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tu- berculosis ...	5	55	60
			<hr/> 289 <hr/>

8. *Hospitals*.—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1941.

13. *Ambulance Facilities*.—The Ambulances administered by the Warwickshire County Council are housed at The Hermitage, Lode Lane, Solihull. Telephone Number (Emergency) Solihull 2333. (Routine) Solihull 2683.

Water.

(i). *Whether the supply has been satisfactory* :—

(a) *In quality*.—Water taken from the mains of the water undertakers, respectively the Cities of Birmingham and Coventry, has given no cause for complaint. In the rural parts of the area many shallow wells still exist although water mains extensions to many parts of the district are reducing the numbers of houses supplied with water from such wells.

(b) *In quantity*.—Those premises served by the mains of the City of Birmingham have, generally speaking, adequate supplies, but those served by the City of Coventry are subject to periods of low pressure on the mains, the remedy of which must await additional supplies of water which it is understood are planned and in the process of execution.

(ii). *Results of examinations of piped water supplies*.—Routine samples were submitted to the analyst from the supplies of each of the water undertakers for chemical and bacteriological examination, all samples proving satisfactory.

(iii). *The facts as to contamination by lead.*—There is no evidence to show that the mains water supplies serving the Solihull Urban District are liable to be plumbo-solvent.

(iv).—*Action in respect of contamination.*—Apart from the laying of water mains extensions to those areas of a rural character, no action was necessary affecting public or piped supplies and individual wells which were the subject of complaint were investigated as necessity demanded.

(v). *Number of houses and population served by public water mains.*

(a) *Direct to the houses.*

The number of houses and retail shops, as ascertained from the rate books, is 19,335. Of these, approximately 18,204, or 94.2 per cent., are connected to mains direct to the houses and 1,020 or 5.3 per cent., are served by 717 wells.

(b) *By Standpipes.*

111 houses or approximately .5 per cent. are served with mains water from 30 standpipes or taps in outbuildings for the common use of several houses.

The proportion of the populations supplied from the public water mains is not accurately known.

For further particulars on the subject of water supplies see the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

1. (ii) *Drainage and Sewerage.*—The sewerage system has been extended by 1,404 yards of foul sewers and 2,858 yards of service water sewers, in the main in connection with the various housing schemes being developed in the district. Three motor driven cesspool emptying machines were employed full time and two machines part time, emptying the 816 cesspools serving 1,677 premises in the area. Twenty-eight drainage systems were tested during the year.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation.*—This matter is referred to in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*—The Council undertake the removal of house refuse from all premises within the Urban District area, the ashbin method of storage being general. The system of disposal is that of controlled tipping.

D. HOUSING.

The following table gives details of houses completed during the year.

Council houses	88
Council houses rebuilt ...	4
Private houses	154
Ministry of Works houses	24
Flats or Conveniences ...	9
Private Houses rebuilt ...	13
<hr/>	
TOTAL	292
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Overcrowding.—Although the erection of new houses tends to reduce overcrowding, this effect is undoubtedly offset to some extent by the normal increase of population in a growing district. The rate of house building is probably not fast enough to counteract this increase. Cases of overcrowding are known to exist although the actual extent of overcrowding in the district has not been ascertained.

Fitness of Houses.—Dilapidations and repairs to old property, the rent of which is generally controlled by law, is one of the most difficult problems of the present. Costs of building work have increased until their relation to the rent received is making it difficult for owners of cottage property to carry out their legal obligations. Any work other than that of keeping the walls and roof of such property in a state in which it will be proof against the inroads of the weather must be carefully considered before legal action is taken against owners. Under these circumstances internal delapidations increase and the day of inevitable demolition is brought nearer. In the meantime tenants of such property are living in sub-standard conditions, the best that the circumstances of the times will allow, and will in due course most probably need to be rehoused by the Council.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This subject is dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1939.

	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1942	...	17	91	—	58	1	1
1943	...	12	175	1	71	—	3
1944	...	7	167	1	39	—	11
1945	...	7	90	—	34	—	10
1946	...	12	114	—	40	—	3
1947	...	22	101	—	37	—	1

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1947.

Scarlet Fever.—101 cases were notified, below the average for the past five years. Cases were distributed as follows :—Shirley 33, Solihull 19, Sheldon 16, Olton 20 and Knowle 13.

Diphtheria.—Of the 22 cases notified 5 were in Adults and were not immunised. Of the remaining cases, mostly mild ones, 10 had been immunised, but in 7 of the cases more than 5 years previously. There was one death.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation continued throughout the year, and at December 31st, 1947, 4,760 children of school age had been treated, and 4,733 under school age, giving a grand total of 9,493 immunised up to the end of 1947.

Polio-myelitis.—In common with other parts of the country there was a considerable prevalence of Poliomyelitis and in fact 22 cases were notified with 3 deaths. The first case was notified on July 22nd and during the next 3 months there were 16 notified. The remainder of the cases occurred during the last three months of the year. Of the three deaths two were adults and one was an infant, all females. Practically all the cases were treated in hospital.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nothing of note.

No schools closed.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

TUBERCULOSIS.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE—PERIODS			NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
						Non-						Non-		
			Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.		
			M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...	M.	F.	...
0	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	2	1	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
15	7	3	...	3	—	...	1	1	...	1	—
25	6	8	...	—	—	...	2	4	...	—	—
35	9	6	...	—	—	...	4	2	...	—	—
45	7	—	...	—	—	...	2	1	...	—	—
55	2	—	...	—	—	...	2	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards			...	2	—	...	1	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
TOTALS			...	35	18	...	5	—	...	11	8	...	1	—

The following Table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis for the past 20 years, and the number of deaths yearly for the same period.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Cases ...	30	24	21	30	27	30	21
Deaths ...	17	13	11	16	12	16	12
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Cases ...	36	38	42	53	60	60	58
Deaths ...	6	13	14	14	15	26	23
	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	
Cases ...	61	60	51	48	56	58	
Deaths ...	24	27	23	18	33	20	

The increase in the number of cases of Tuberculosis during the past 20 years is more than accounted for by the increase in the population.

58 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 53 being Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 of other forms.

12 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 11 were discharged after treatment.

19 deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 to Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Of the 58 cases notified during the year, 9 died.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The most immediately pressing problem of 1947 has been the need to deal effectively with poisonous discharges into the sewer which were not only capable of inflicting severe damage to the sewage works but which also had the power to kill plant life and poison fish in the river into which the effluent from the works discharged after treatment. Sudden discharges of quantities of cyanide solution without warning have proved particularly injurious although other discharges of a somewhat less toxic character have been met with in the nature of things. Difficulties of tracing the sources of such effluents must always exist. The time lag between the discharge and its manifestation at the works, when the Department is notified, cannot be overcome and in the meantime any evidence which existed tends to disappear. Nevertheless much local knowledge of the works in the drainage area and their practices in this direction has been learned and the experience gained is likely to have a restraining influence in the future.

With the appointment of additional staff a good start has been made in rewriting departmental records, a complete survey having been made of factories in the area and the inspection of other premises for recording purposes is proceeding.

Adulteration of foods and drugs has come within the Department's purview by the taking over of sampling duties under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938 from the Warwickshire County Council, whilst the conditions under which petroleum is sold have been overhauled by the drafting of new and more complete conditions to be attached to licences in respect of premises from which this fuel is handled, stored and sold.

With adequate technical staff more work can be achieved in the future but only if the present bottleneck on the clerical side of the office organisation can be removed. The law of supply and demand operated in such a way that when a position for an experienced adult member of the staff became vacant it had to be filled by a junior, but in spite of this the work of the department has developed within the limits allowed by the existing personnel as the following pages indicate.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY.***Particulars of Entries in Registers.*

Cowkeepers only	...	...	...	...	76
Cowkeepers who retail milk	...	...	...	...	16
Others retailers of milk	...	...	...	...	53

*Particulars of persons registered to produce and sell Designated Milk.**Licensed as producers by the County Council.*

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	4
Accredited	...	...	...	...	15

*Licensed to sell Designated Milk by this Council.**Supplementary or Dealer's Licences.*

			Supplementary.	Dealer's.
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4	3
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	3	1
Accredited	...	...	—	—
Pasteurised	...	...	6	2

Licensed by this Council to operate Pasteurising Plant ... 1

MILK SAMPLES.

The following Table gives the results of milk samples submitted to biological, bacteriological and the phosphatase tests.

	Fresh Milk.		Tuberculin Tested. Pasteurised Milk.		Pasteurised Milk.		Heat Treated Milk.		TOTALS.	
No. of Samples ...	131		34		102		26		293	
	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Methy.ene Blue Test	77	54	30	4	92	10	21	5	220	73
Coliform Test ...	101	30	18	—	29	3	10	—	158	33
Phosphatase Test	—	—	34	—	99	3	25	1	158	4
T.B. Inoculation	27	1							27	1

The standards used to determine whether samples were satisfactory were those set down in the Milk (Special Designations) Orders which lay down standards for Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Pasteurised Milk.

Consideration of the above table and comparison with those tables published in previous years shows that a steady long term improvement is taking place in the bacteriological quality and incidentally the keeping quality of milk supplied to the customer. For this reason a lesser number of samples has been taken and the time saved has been used to inspect more closely those premises at which milk is produced. The percentage of samples of fresh milk found to be unsatisfactory has been less than in previous recent years and to this extent this fresh policy has justified itself. Many of these samples of fresh milk reported unsatisfactory were borderline cases so that the actual position is somewhat better than the table indicates.

Samples of milk which had been subject to heat treatment have proved generally of unsatisfactory bacterial quality. It is understood that during the summer months some of the milk reaching dairies for heat treatment is unsatisfactory on arrival and if the keeping quality of this milk can be improved then so much more wholesome food will be available to the general public.

Although at the farms conditions of cleanliness cannot be said to have reached pre-war standards, the progress which has been made along the road to clean milk production has been satisfactory.

Tuberculous Milk.—28 samples of milk each representing a herd were obtained and investigated to ascertain the presence or otherwise of the tubercle bacillus. More samples would have been taken but the shortage of guinea pigs for inoculation purposes restricted the Department's activities in this direction. One of the samples taken was shown to contain this organism and was reported to the Veterinary Service for their action under the Tuberculosis Order. The following table shows the number of samples taken in each of six recent years and the percentage found positive.

	<i>Number of Samples Examined.</i>	<i>Number positive to Tubercle Bacillus.</i>	<i>Percentage Positive.</i>
1942	21	3	14.2
1943	73	—	—
1944	144	4	2.8
1945	58	6	10.3
1946	67	3	4.5
1947	28	1	3.6

COWSHEDS.

Progress with regard to alterations and improvements during the year has been slower than was anticipated due mainly to the pre-occupation of buidiers with other essential work and secondly to delays caused by the preparation of plans and estimates and the need to obtain licences for labour and material. Much of the work planned will materialise in the future but during 1947 the following alterations and improvements were actually carried out :—

Defective floors, channels and feeding troughs entirely reconstructed	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	—
„ natural lighting remedied	...	...	...	...	1
„ ventilation	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls cement rendered	...	...	...	...	12
New dairies built or adapted	...	...	...	...	—
New extension to existing cowshed	...	...	...	...	1

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of food were examined and disposed of after inspection had shown that they were unfit for human consumption :—

	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Pickles	20	9	2	—
Fish		11	2	17
Biscuits			2	—
Sultanas		1	1	12
Glucose			2	9
Miscellaneous Tinned Foodstuffs	2	9	3	14
Miscellaneous	1	8	1	27
Total	25	1	3	23

Of the above, 21 tons 11 cwts. 2 qrs. 5 lbs. was destroyed because it was unfit for further use, whilst the remainder was diverted for use as animal feeding stuffs.

In connection with this work 678 seizures and surrenders were made in respect of which 402 certificates of unfitness were issued to persons applying for them.

The pickles which were found unfit for consumption were part of a consignment which had been disposed of by the Army and which was deposited in a Government Depot in the district. Before definite conclusions were reached chemical and bacteriological examination of typical tins was carried out as a guide, and part of the consignment was returned to the Ministry of Food for resale.

ICE CREAM.

The standard of construction of buildings used for the manufacture of ice cream has been maintained during 1947 and pressure exerted upon users of unsuitable buildings to carry out the necessary work to improve their premises.

Letters have been written to such users informing them of the Council's policy of insistence upon a satisfactory standard of construction followed by interviews at which the defects of the premises were pointed out. As one result a number of manufacturers have declared that they were unwilling to erect new premises or alter existing buildings and preferred to retail the product of other registered manufacturers.

At the same time persons who wished to commence manufacture have come forward and erected new premises or altered existing premises in accordance with the Council's structural requirements and have been registered.

Whilst the numbers of manufacturers have declined the number of vendors only has increased by approximately 30 per cent. The reason for this increase is, no doubt, that the demand for ice cream is artificially stimulated by the restriction on the sale of sweets and other minor luxuries, imposed by rationing.

The policy of insisting upon wrapped ice cream only being sold in the streets has been maintained successfully during 1947 and the principle has also been applied to kiosks and shops where facilities for the washing of hands do not exist.

Two applications were refused, one an application to manufacture at unsuitable premises and the other that of a person wishing to retail loose ice cream from a barrow.

The following figures show the position as it has developed during 1947 with regard to the numbers of those concerned with the manufacture and distribution of the product :—

Manufacturers.

Registered at close of 1947	...	...	...	...	13
Using "hot mix" method	...	...	...	...	7
Using "cold mix" method	...	...	...	...	6
Discontinued during year	...	...	...	...	8
New manufacturers registered	...	...	...	...	4
Number who had new separate buildings constructed					6
Number having separate rooms adapted			...	...	3
Still unsatisfactory and under negotiation			...	...	2

Vendors.

Registered at close of 1947	...	...	...	...	70
Registered during year	...	...	...	...	24
Selling pre-packed ice cream only	...	...	...	...	45
Selling pre-packed and loose ice cream	...	...	...	...	12
Manufacturers selling loose ice cream only	...	...	...	...	13

In March the Ministry of Health in a monthly bulletin gave an explanation and the results of experiments with regard to the grading of ice cream by the methylene blue test and suggested that the method should be given a trial using provisional grades numbered one to four Grade 1 being that of high bacterial quality, in order to attempt to assess the bacterial cleanliness of ice cream. 26 such samples were submitted for examination to the Public Analyst by the methylene blue test, bacterial count and tests for coliform bacilli, the results assessed by the methylene blue method being as follows:—

Methylene Blue Test.

Grades	...	...	...	1	2	3	4
Number of Samples	...	...	...	1	10	8	7

In view of the fact that too much importance cannot be placed upon the results of individual tests, the Ministry tentatively suggest that as a general guide some 80 per cent. should fall into grades 1 and 2. The number of samples taken by the Department was probably too small to form a judgment, but it does seem that reading the results together with those obtained by the bacterial count method and the bacillus coli indications, the methods of manufacture are hygienically rather low.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force during the year. They require that in the case of ice cream made by the "hot mix" method the preparatory custard shall be pasteurised and then cooled to 45°F. within 1½ hours and kept at that temperature until freezing is begun. After freezing the temperature must not rise above 28°F., and if it does the product must be re-pasteurised. Ice cream made by the "cold mix" method is also regulated.

Insufficient experience has been obtained to judge of the effectiveness of the Regulations, but it is already clear that the conditions as to temperature control are almost impossible to supervise unless the heating and cooling processes can be observed during manufacture. It is possible to do this occasionally in individual cases, but it is unreasonable to expect personal supervision in each case on every occasion that manufacture takes place.

THE MANUFACTURE OF MEAT PRODUCTS.

As in the case of ice cream meat manufacturing premises have been closely supervised during the year. Some manufacturers have completed premises according to promises made in 1946, the position at the close of the year being that there were eight manufacturers registered, three of whom were registered during 1947. One application was deferred pending compliance with the Council's requirements, which required the construction of a new preparation room.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT SAMPLING

From the 1st of April 1947 the Council became a Food & Drug Authority taking over these duties from the Warwickshire County Council at the instigation of the Ministry of Health.

The work done during the year is itemised below:—

<i>Total Number of Samples Taken.</i>				<i>Formal.</i>	<i>Informal.</i>
Milk	...	...	...	92	—
Miscellaneous Foods & Drugs	...	...	...	2	81

Of these, 90 formal samples of milk, 1 formal sample of influenza mixture and 79 informal samples of miscellaneous foods and drugs were reported genuine.

The following samples were reported unsatisfactory.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article</i>			<i>Method.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
68	Influenza Mixture			Informal.	Contained 60% excess Benzoic Acid. The formal sample of this article proved genuine.
88	Gin	...	...	Informal	Contained 25% excess water. Formal sample taken (No. 93).
93	Gin	...	...	Formal	Contained 22% added water. Legal proceedings were instituted, a fine of £5 with £1 8s. costs being imposed on the defendant.
94	Milk	...	...	Formal	Deficient of 16% milk fat. Sample repeated (No. 100).
100	Milk	...	...	Formal	Deficient of 3% milk fat. Sample No. 100 was an "appeal to cow" sample of milk from half of the herd. Further samples of milk were taken from each individual cow and several of these proved to be considerably below the required standard. Advice was given to the farmer with a view to improving the quality of the milk produced. Subsequent samples have proved to be genuine.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The programme of mains extensions outlined in last year's report has been handicapped by the shortage of labour. Such labour as was available was used on the joint scheme with the Stratford-on-Avon Rural District Council in that area, in order to convey water to building sites where new houses were being provided.

At the close of the year the Department was informed by the water undertakers, the City of Birmingham, that labour was expected to be available for an unknown period in the near future which could be used for the extension of mains in this district.

In the water undertaking area of the City of Coventry, the south-eastern part of the Council's area, the Windmill Lane-Vicarage Road, Packwood, Scheme which involved the laying of 750 yards of main was completed. This scheme originally scheduled to take place later in the Council's programme was carried out because the Coventry City Authority had some labour available for a short time and additionally because advantage could be taken of using money set aside for the execution of other schemes.

Water services were supplied to 47 houses, previously using wells, during 1947, so rendering 38 wells redundant.

The number of wells still in use is 717 serving 1020 houses, the number served from water mains being 19,335.

Groups of houses, cafes and similar establishments, served by wells were sampled in accordance with the Council's policy and also upon complaint, 30 samples being submitted for examination with the following results :—

Number of samples submitted to chemical and bacteriological analysis	28
Number satisfactory in both tests	11
Number unsatisfactory in both tests	17
Number of samples for chemical analysis only ...	2
Number satisfactory	—
Number unsatisfactory	2

SWIMMING POOLS.

There are two privately owned open-air swimming pools in the district open for the use of the general public and in addition one at a school used by the scholars. The bringing into operation of Bye-laws governing the maintenance and use of the public pools was considered and approved in principle by the Council, and at the year's end the Council's application to adopt these Bye-laws was under consideration by the Ministry of Health.

The plant and equipment at one of the pools open to the public complies with the requirements of the model bye-laws but in the case of the other public pool considerable addition will be required to the filtering apparatus before the bye-law standard can be reached. As the pool of the school mentioned above is not open for the use of the general public any Bye-laws adopted cannot apply to it. This particular pool is without filtration apparatus of any kind, the water being changed on the fill and empty system about every three weeks during the swimming season. In order to secure sterilization of the water liquid chlorine is added by hand. Sterilization of the water at the two public pools is effected by the introduction of chlorine gas automatically. Ten samples of the water from these pools were submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination, eight of which were reported to be safe for swimming and two to be in a fairly reasonably satisfactory condition.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

In Premises.

An experienced operator was employed during the whole of the year and a further operator during the second half of the year, both devoting full time to disinfestation and treatment of infested premises.

126 infestations were discovered of which one was estimated to be a reservoir infestation, (i.e., over 200 rats), 25 of a major character (over 50 rats) and 100 of a minor nature. The number of premises concerned being 160. Owing to the essentially residential character of the district most of the infestations were found at private dwellings.

In Sewers.

Two investigations into the state of rat infestation of the Council's sewers were carried out during the financial year 1947-48, one of them in early 1948, but as this report deals with the calendar year 1947, these remarks are confined to the investigation undertaken between September and December 1947.

A proportion of the foul sewer inspection chambers only were baited, sausage rusk being used for this purpose, and of 387 chambers so treated, in 115 cases it was shown that rats were present and in 27 cases complete consumption of the bait was recorded. Those chambers showing the presence of rats were retreated with a mixture of sausage rusk and arsenic.

INDUSTRIAL SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Although informal observations were made of factory chimneys, the results were negative, and no case calling for detailed investigation was discovered.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Due to limitation of stocks the need of enforcing early closing hours has been considerably reduced. Routine visits have been paid to enforce those provisions of the Acts dealing with sanitary provisions and comfort of workers.

FACTORIES.

During the war years pre-occupation in matters concerned with the prosecution of the war together with inadequacy of staffs resulted in records being neglected. Opportunity was taken during the year of making a complete survey of factories in the area and 174 factories were found, re-inspected and recorded. The number of cases in which defects were found was as follows :—

Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...
(a) insufficient	...	...	...	...	2
(b) unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	...	11
(c) not separate for the sexes	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	16
					<hr/>

The total number of visits paid to factories was 391.

Of these 16 cases of non-compliance with the Factories Act 8 were remedied following informal approach and one was referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories, the remainder being outstanding at the end of the year.

The number of Outworkers reported was :—

Making etc. of wearing Apparel	...	2
Carding etc. of buttons etc.	...	8
		<hr/>
Total	...	10
		<hr/>

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

As the houses in the district are generally of detached or semi-detached type, the closet accommodation is of the modern water-carried type with the exception of 867 pail closets and 38 privy middens, the majority of which are emptied weekly.

In recent years the Council has set aside in the annual estimates a sum of money to be devoted to the conversion of pail closets. As the annual cost of emptying these is approximately £2 10s. per convenience per annum the cost to the Council of the cleansing service tends to be reduced on every occasion when a pail closet is converted. Where sewers and water supplies are already available it is the policy of the Council to secure conversion whenever reasonable, but at present limiting factors exist in the amount of building labour available to carry out the work and the non-availability of sewers in many areas where pail closets exist.

In view of these limitations to progress the fact that 10 pail closets were converted, 9 of them with the assistance of contributions by the Council, can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory. Incidentally, because conversion meant connection of the drainage system to a sewer, three cesspools became redundant.

CARAVANS AND CAMPING GROUNDS.

More enquiries have been received during the year for permission to establish caravans permanently on sites within the district. Applicants were informed that the Council's policy was to discourage permanent establishment of the structures but nevertheless five requests were received to proceed with an application and all were refused by the Council.

A further application was received to establish a camping ground on a site which had been used seasonally for some years. After the close consideration of legal points arising from the interpretation of the appropriate provision of the Solihull Urban District Council Act, this request was agreed to.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS.

A prosecution was instituted under section 86 of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907 the charges being (1) failure to register a business of a dealer in old metal with the Council and (2) failure to keep a book of purchases and sales. The court found the charges proved and fined the defendant ten shillings in each case.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The worst cases of rivers pollution the Department has had to deal with in recent years are undoubtedly those connected with the discharge into foul sewers of quantities of metal salts in solution with water, which have been used as electrolytes in plating processes. Last year a serious discharge of cyanide, presumably due to the emptying of a plating tank caused the death of fish over some miles of river in addition to temporarily putting the sewage works concerned out of action.

This year all works in the area had a copy of a precis of the provisions of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937 circulated to them.

In October of this year a poisonous discharge was discovered in good time at the sewage works, and precautionary measures promptly taken prevented large-scale damage. Detailed investigations followed and although evidence of cyanide discharge had disappeared evidence of chromate discharge was obtained on two separate occasions and at the years close consideration was being given to the possibility of prosecutions.

Although much time is spent in these investigations of accidental or wilful discharges the evidence obtained is often negligible because notification from the sewage works is the first indication of anything unusual having occurred. As the time taken for the fluid to flow to the works is $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours immediate action is out of the question and such material evidence as does exist has disappeared by the time the investigation can be commenced.

A happier result was due to the publicising of the Council's powers under the provisions of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937, when a request for advice as to the discharge of old plating vat solutions resulted in the co-operation of the Public Analyst, the Birmingham Tame and Rea Drainage Board, the firm concerned and Council's officers, with the result that the respective liquids were examined, neutralising substances prescribed, mixed in the vats at the factory and finally discharged to the sewers under the supervision of the Council's officers.

Of six factories operating plating plants in the area one has closed down during the year and another has removed to another area.

Thirty-six samples of effluent were taken and submitted for examination during the year, three of which were formal samples taken in accordance with Section 10 of the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937.

PETROLEUM.

During the year 98 installations were licensed for the storage of 152,946 gallons of petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures, and one was licensed for the storage of 56,000 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium. The income received from the payment of licence fees was £80 5s.

LIST OF DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1947.

INTERNAL

Defective ceiling construction	...	...	...	...	18
Defective plaster	...	...	...	...	72
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	75
Defective kitchen ranges, fireplaces and flues	...	...	...	...	7
Defective washboilers	...	...	...	...	4
Defective windows and cords	...	...	...	...	17
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	3
Defective staircases	...	...	...	...	3
Defective sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	...	9
New sinks and waste pipes provided	...	...	...	...	4

EXTERNAL.

Defective roofs	...	...	...	...	...	70
Defective pointing and brickwork of walls...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective chimneys	...	...	...	...	...	17
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective eaves gutters	...	...	...	...	...	28
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	41
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	5

DRAINAGE.

Defective drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective drains cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	91
Houses connected to sewers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	10
Privy Middens converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	44
Ditches cleared	...	...	...	...	...	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Wells discontinued	...	...	...	...	...	38
Houses connected to water mains	...	...	...	...	...	47
Defective hot water apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective water supply and burst pipes	...	...	...	...	...	8

FARMS AND DAIRIES.

Structural defects at Farms and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	20
Limewashing of Cowsheds and Dairies	24

MISCELLANEOUS.

Defects at Factories	9
Miscellaneous	35

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TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1947.

	Inspections made.	Notices served.		Notices complied with.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools* ...	1,967	16	269	174
Milk Producing and Retailing Premises	124	—	22	2
Bakehouses and Food Premises	307	—	4	—
Caravans and Camp Sites ...	45	—	3	1
Ashpits and Ashbins	51	8	43	21
Sanitary Conveniences	40	4	80	35
House Drainage	611	—	61	36
Water Supply	335	—	19	2
Premises where animals kept ...	21	—	1	1
Factories	386	—	2	—
Outworkers Premises	42	—	—	—
Rat Infested Premises	92	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	24	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	310	—	—	—
Food and Drugs Sampling ...	203	—	—	—
Ice Cream Samples	163	—	—	—
Milk Samples	365	—	—	—
Petroleum Installations	206	—	—	—
Water Courses and Ditches ...	25	—	—	—
Court Attendances	5	—	—	—
Interviews	62	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	746	—	—	—
TOTALS	6,130	28	504	273
Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food		...	...	No. 678
Samples of Food taken for analysis	...	...	...	175
Samples of Food found adulterated	...	...	...	5
Samples of Water taken for analysis	...	...	...	32
Samples of Water not in all respects satisfactory	...	...	...	19
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	12
Houses disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	149
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	...	...	...	—

E. VAUGHAN, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1947 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1941	58,850	1,106	18.8	60	54	577	9.3
1942	60,960	1,204	19.8	52	43	560	9.2
1943	60,670	1,380	22.8	51	37	537	8.8
1944	60,070	1,400	23.4	44	31	532	8.8
1945	58,770	1,143	19.5	34	30	518	8.8
1946	61,720	1,223	19.5	41	33	555	8.9
1947	63,890	1,345	21.1	32	24	546	8.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1947.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	20.5	0.50	12.0	41
126 Great Towns, including London			23.3	0.62	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns ...	...	...	22.2	0.54	11.9	36
London	...	...	22.7	0.49	12.8	37

TABLE III.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	22	.....	3	13	2	4	.....	.....	22	2
Erysipelas	4	.....	.....	1	1	1	1	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	101	.....	32	60	5	3	1	.....	41	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever										
Pneumonia	37	1	1	10	.....	7	6	12	.....	28
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis	22	.....	5	11	2	4	.....	.....	.....	3
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Polio-Encephalitis	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	53	.....	.....	3	10	29	9	2	.....	17
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	.....	.....	1	3	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Totals	248	6	41	99	23	49	18	15	63	53

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	264	282
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	1	1
5 Diphtheria	1	1
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	11	6
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	2
9 Influenza	2	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	3
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	—	6
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	4	11
15 Cancer of Breast	—	14
16 Cancer, other Sites	35	32
17 Diabetes	3	1
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	24	43
19 Heart Disease	77	75
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	9	11
21 Bronchitis	6	4
22 Pneumonia	17	11
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	6	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	1
26 Appendicitis	—	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	4	10
28 Nephritis	8	5
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	1
31 Premature Birth	4	3
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	8	5
33 Suicide	6	2
34 Road Traffic Accidents	3	1
35 Other Violent Causes	6	9
36 All Other Causes	25	18

